

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00555 211624Z

44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 /089 W

----- 111309

P R 211505Z NOV 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1297

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0555

NOFORN

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES ON
NOVEMBER 20, 1975 - BERLIN ISSUE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH US REP
AND DEPREP ON NOVEMBER 20, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV DESCRIBED
FURTHER HIS VIEWS ON COVERAGE OF THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN
IN A TROOP REDUCTION AGREEMENT. WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON
AGENCIES MAY WISH TO STUDY HIS COMMENTS FURTHER AND
DEVELOP A POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH US REP AND DEPREP ON MARGINS
OF NOVEMBER 20 PLENARY SESSION, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV SAID THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00555 211624Z

HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FORCE DEFINITIONS ISSUE IN THE

NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.

3. US REP SAID THAT IN FUTURE DISCUSSION OF FORCE DEFINITIONS, HE HOPED KHLESTOV WOULD AGAIN NOT RAISE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF WHETHER WESTERN GARRISONS IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN WERE INCLUDED UNDER A DEFINITION AS KHLESTOV HAD DONE IN DISCUSSION WITH US REPS ON NOVEMBER 17. THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. KHLESTOV REPLIED THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT FROM EARLIER WESTERN RESPONSES TO HIS QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN DATA, THE TOTAL OF THE WESTERN GARRISONS IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN NATO TOTALS OF WESTERN GROUND FORCES GIVEN THE EAST. AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH SIDES HAD IN THEIR REDUCTION PROPOSALS DEFINED THE REDUCTION AREA AS THE TERRITORY OF BENELUX, THE FRG, THE GDR, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC MENTION OF BERLIN. AS US REPS WELL KNEW, THE SOVIET POSITION, WHICH HE CONSIDERED TO BE DOCUMENTED BY THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN, WAS THAT THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN WERE NOT PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. FOR THEIR PART, THE WESTERN POWERS DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN WAS PART OF THE GDR. HENCE, A REFERENCE IN A DEFINITION TO ALL FORCES IN THE AREA SHOULD EXPLICITLY STATE THAT THE BERLIN GARRISONS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE COUNT TO AVOID ANY TERRITORIAL IMPLICATIONS AND THUS KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO THE STATUS OF BERLIN.

4. US REPS SAID THAT THE BERLIN ISSUE SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT BERLIN WAS INSIDE THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, WHATEVER ELSE MIGHT BE SAID OF IT. THEREFORE, IT DID NOT APPEAR NECESSARY TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO BERLIN. US REPS SAID THAT THEY HAD NO USG INSTRUCTION ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THEY ASSUMED THAT, IF AS DESIRABLE, THERE WERE NO MENTION OF BERLIN IN THE TEXT OF A TROOP REDUCTION AGREEMENT, PARTICIPANTS MIGHT IN ANY EVENT WANT TO INCLUDE SOME REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE AGREEMENT DID NOT AFFECT OTHER LEGAL OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARTICIPANTS. AGAIN SPEAKING PERSONALLY, IF THIS BERLIN ISSUE WAS GOING TO CAUSE A PROBLEM, IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO DELETE THE MANPOWER OF THE BERLIN GARRISONS FROM THE TOTALS OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE REDUCTION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00555 211624Z

AREA AND THUS KEEP BERLIN OUT ENTIRELY.

5. KHLESTOV SAID, NO, HE THOUGHT THE GARRISONS IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE ALLIED COUNT. HE INDICATED THAT, OTHER THAN TO ELIMINATE CONFUSION ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN, ONE REASON WAS THAT, OTHERWISE, THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN MIGHT BECOME A SPECIAL AREA WITHIN THE REDUCTION AREA WHERE WESTERN FORCES COULD BE INCREASED WITHOUT LIMITATION.

6. POSSIBLY, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SO STATE, KHLESTOV ALSO HAD IN MIND THE CONSIDERATION THAT IF THE WEST WAS GOING TO COUNT EASTERN FORCES IN EAST BERLIN, THEN WESTERN FORCES IN THE WESTERN SECTOR SHOULD ALSO BE COUNTED. HE WAS IN ANY EVENT FIRM IN HIS VIEW THAT WESTERN GARRISONS IN THE WESTERN SECTORS WOULD HAVE TO BE COUNTED IN THE TOTAL SIZE OF WESTERN FORCES. KHLESTOV STATED IN RESPONSE TO US REP'S QUESTION THAT HE DID NOT ENVISAGE THAT A REDUCTION AGREEMENT WOULD IN ANY WAY DEAL WITH BERLIN OR WITH WESTERN FORCES IN BERLIN EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPUTATION AND SUGGESTED THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD SPECIFY THAT THE WESTERN GARRISONS IN BERLIN WERE INCLUDED IN THE WESTERN COUNT FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPUTATION ONLY.

7. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER KHLESTOV ACCEPTED US REP'S SUGGESTION THAT HE NOT BRING THE BERLIN SUBJECT UP IN DISCUSSION IN THE INFORMAL SESSIONS OR WITH OTHER ALLIES. HOWEVER, HE DID SAY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN THE PAST WITH BOTH FRG REP BEHREND AND GDR REP OESER AND THAT BOTH AGREED THAT THE BERLIN ISSUE SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. KHLESTOV SAID HE TOO AGREED WITH THIS POINT AND THAT HIS MAIN INTEREST WAS TO PREVENT ANY AMBIGUITIES ARISING AS TO THE STATUS OF THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN IN A FORCE DEFINITION.

8. KHLESTOV'S REMARKS INDICATE TO US THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, SOVIET VIEWS ON BERLIN WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH. KHLESTOV'S POINT ABOUT BERLIN IS BASED ON THE WORDING OF THE EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973, AND OF THE ALLIED OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS OF NOVEMBER 22, 1973, BOTH OF WHICH DEFINE THE REDUCTION AREA IN TERMS OF THE TERRITORY OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WITH TERRITORY IN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MBFR V 00555 211624Z

CENTRAL EUROPE.

9. WE SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES BEGIN STUDYING THIS PROBLEM WITHOUT AT THIS STAGE RAISING IT WITH OTHER ALLIES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE FRENCH, WHO WOULD BE HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO THE TOPIC. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE KHLESTOV FROM PUSHING THE POINT FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

10. ONE THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH THE ISSUE WOULD BE TO DEFINE THE REDUCTION AREA IN TERMS OF ITS OUTER GEOGRAPHICAL CIRCUMFERENCE RATHER THAN IN TERMS OF THE TERRITORY OF CERTAIN DIRECTLY PARTICIPATING STATES. A SECOND POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO DEVELOP THE POINT KHLESTOV HAS SUGGESTED, NAMELY THAT FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPUTING WESTERN FORCE TOTALS, THE SIZE OF THE FORCES IN THE WESTERN SECTORS

OF BERLIN ARE COUNTED IN WESTERN TOTALS, AND TO ADD A GENERAL
DISCLAIMER ON BERLIN ALONG THE LINES THAT NOTHING IN THE
AGREEMENT AFFECTED THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
GERMANY OF THE 4 POWERS. A THIRD, WHICH WOULD APPEAR HARDER
TO GAIN AGREEMENT ON, WOULD BE TO DELETE THE TOTAL STRENGTH
OF THE ALLIED GARRISONS IN BERLIN FROM THE ALLIED TOTALS. RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBFRV00555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750406-0489
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751121/aaaaasag.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES ON NOVEMBER 20, 1975 - BERLIN ISSUE
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, WB, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006